the co-ordination of the Open University system, has suggested a networking arrangement among -all the Open Universities so that duplication of efforts is reduced.

"अपर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस" का बन्द किया जाना

*479. श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सियालदह से बनारस होकर दिल्ली जाने वाली अपर इण्डिया एक्सप्रेस बन्द कर दी गई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ग) क्या सरकार को इस रेलगाड़ी को बन्द किये जाने से यात्रियों को होने वाली कठिनाइयों की जानकारी है और यह रेलगाड़ी कब से चालू थी ?

रेल मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री माधवराव सिंधिया) : (क) से (ग) इस गाड़ी को एक युक्तिसंगत उपाय के तौर पर मुगलसराय और दिल्ली के बीच चलाना बन्द कर दिया गया है। लेकिन, थोड़े से समय वाली दिल्ली के लिये/ से भागलपुर, पटना या मुगलसराय में मेल लेने वाली गाड़ियां पकड़ सकते हैं। यह गाड़ी पिछले कुछ दशकों से चल रही थी।

Malpractices in the appointment of Rural Branch Postmasters

480. SHRl SHANKER SINH VAGH-LA Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar a number of malpractices are prevalent in case of appointment of Rural/Branch Postmasters etc. and whether some VIPs have brought the matter to his notice;

(b) if so, what are the details in regard to Faizabad district of Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) what is the manner in which Government propose to overcome such malpractices and number of cases in which branch Postmasters etc. have been penalized?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Some complaints had been taken up regarding such i regularities in appointments of Extra Departmental Agents in U.P. and Bihar Circles, but no general instances of malpractice have been established in the appointment of Extra Depart mental Postmasters etc.

(b) Complaints relating to Faizabad Division are given in the annexed statement *(see* below)

(c) It will be observed from the Statement that whenever a compIaint is received, proper enquiries are made and action taken in the light of the investigation. In Faizabad district appointment of branch postmaster was set 'aside in one case.

Statement

FAIZABAD DIVISION

1. Lt. Col. Ajoy Mushran, M.P. and Chairman, Ex-Servicemen Cell took up ihe case with Minister (C) regarding removal of Shri Krishan Prakash of village and post Saneha. On enquiry it was' found that Shri Krishan Prakash was working as substitute vide Shri O. P. Dubey, former branch postmaster (promoted to the Boatman cadre). He was discharged on appointment of regular branch postmaster. Shri Krishan Prakash represented th© case to Director of Postal Services. Lucknow who rejected his representation. His cas© is under consideration.

2. Shri Ashwani Kumar, M. P, forwarded a complaint of Shri Satya Narayan Singh, Principal Janta U. M. Vidyalaya Bangaon Zadia 'against improper functioning and wrong date of birth of Branch Postmaster, Bangaon Zadia, Shri Sabhajeet Singh. After proper enquiries made in this regard, improper working of the official was not proved while the allegation *of* wrong date of birth bas been proved